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PLATEAU FARMING; FUTURE OUTLOOK

What L. R. Neel, Associate Editor on
Southern Agriculturist, Thinks of
Farming and Stock Raising
Here.—Long Neglected.

Rarely have we seen an article descriptive of this plateau section for farming and stock raising so full of conservative truths as the following from the pen of L. R. Neel, associate editor on the Southern Agriculturist, Nashville. Mr. Neel is now developing a farm near Mayland, twelve miles north of Crossville, and is a thorough believer in the future of this plateau section. The writer is personally acquainted with Mr. Neel and know him not to be one who is inclined to exaggerate or enlarge on real facts, but on the other hand, it has seemed to us that he is very conservative in his statements. Hence we take much pleasure in reproducing his article as a very fair and conservative statement relative to this section. Mr. Neel says:

"The Cumberland Plateau stretches from in Kentucky obliquely through Tennessee and into northern Alabama and Georgia. It is an elevated section lying about a thousand feet higher than the surrounding country. The early settlers regarded it as worth little but for hunting. Roads led across it to the more fertile lands west, and these sections were cleared and settled while the Cumberland Plateau stood under almost an unbroken forest, with occasional cabins and very small clearings. With the development of the railroads the timber has been largely removed and now the section awaits the hand of the pioneer farmer.

"Col. Killebrew, the first commissioner of agriculture of Tennessee, made the prediction years ago that some day the Cumberland Plateau will be the garden spot of Tennessee. The writer will not at this time try to contradict or affirm this statement, but he is fully convinced that some day it will be a land of productive farms and people as thickly as many other sections of the states in which it lies.

"The earlier settler sought not to build up fertility, but to find it as a free gift and he installed this in his children and it is still in his descendants, but now most of the rich virgin soil is gone. Under these conditions the Cumberland Plateau was passed by, for its most ardent friends cannot claim for the section a soil rich in plant food. In fact it is very low in phosphoric acid and generally so in nitrogen. It also needs lime as do most of the upland soils of the South.

"Lime is to be found on other formations on all sides and in outcrops on the Plateau in several places, so that the lime problem is about as easy in that section as anywhere else. At Crab Orchard, Tenn., there is a lime kiln, located there because of the high percentage of lime in the stone and the whiteness of the product made. This is almost in the heart of the Plateau. Under war conditions phosphate may be expensive, but under normal conditions it is the cheapest fertilizer we can buy, and we count it no hardship to have to use it on the land to make good crops. The soil is very well supplied in potash so that nitrogen and

humus are the only problems. Some nitrogen can be bought to help make the crop being planted, or already planted, larger, but this is not the way to build up a soil supply of nitrogen. The method is no different on the Plateau from that in other sections except that the supply is a little lower than in most other sections. It must be taken from the air through legumes and fed on the land or fed in the barns and the manure returned to the soil.

"The farmer does not have to wait until his land has been enriched in nitrogen before he can make crops, but he can do the thing that we have refused to do as a class, grow crops that can take their nitrogen from the air and keep on growing them until the soil is improved and then only drop these crops out of the rotation long enough to grow a crop or two of the nonlegumes. When phosphate is used, lime helps greatly, but is not essential for most crops; on the virgin Plateau soil or soil that has not been badly treated, a splendid crop of soy beans can be grown, as good as almost anywhere else. When lime and phosphate are used on the Plateau soil red and crimson clover make excellent growths. Other legumes can be grown, but these three are enough to put farming on the Plateau on a sound basis if used sufficiently and properly. The first of the crops makes a big yield of one of the best hays that will return to the soil a manure rich in nitrogen. If allowed to seed, a good money crop can be raised and at the same time a roughage will be provided that will help to winter the stock and will make manure to enrich the land. If the seed are pastured off by hogs, good gains can be made on them and the fertility will be left on the land. Red clover will give a good hay crop to feed and make manure to enrich the soil, and the aftermath and root system will be worth as much or more than the manure from the first crop. Crimson clover will make a fine lot of winter and spring pasture and then a good green manure crop to plow under to enrich the soil in nitrogen and vegetable matter.

"By properly combining these crops in the rotation on Cumberland Plateau soil, profitable crops of corn, Irish and sweet potatoes, buckwheat, possibly field (table) beans and some one or more of the small grains can be raised without using large amounts of expensive fertilizers. By feeding all roughage and much of the grain and saving manure carefully, the soil will be steadily built up.

"This is not a mere theory, but plain facts. All who are familiar with the Plateau know that these three legume crops named do well when properly handled. All experience shows that they make possible the storing of nitrogen in the soil rapidly, directly and through live stock farming. Experience of farmers and tests made by Prof. Moores, of the Tennessee Experiment Station, prove that the Plateau soil makes a good account of the nitrogen placed in it and that it does not leach out worse than in the average soil in the state. It is just a matter of application. It can be done and several farmers are getting started.

"The dawn of a new day for the great Plateau region is breaking. The clearings are getting larger, old fields are being taken in and put in crops. Soy beans are being planted and so is red clover. Crimson clover is getting started. Land is being limed. Cumberland County has its own lime crusher that crushes lime at cost for its farmers, which is \$1 per ton at the quarry.

"While far over a hundred bushels of corn has been grown to the acre on the Cumberland Plateau, and corn can be grown profitably it properly sandwiched in between legume crops, and with applications of farm manure, it is not to become famous as a corn growing section. The same is true of wheat.

"However, there is one crop in which it is going to excel most, if not all, other sections in the South. That is the Irish potato. The climate and soil suit the crop, so that the quality is unsurpassed and the yields have been very satisfactory and will become more so under the legume, live stock farming recommended. In time potatoes from that section will replace a part of the millions of bushels that annually come south from Maine, New York, Michigan and other states.

"Indications are that it may also become a competitor of the same section in the production of field beans.

"Already there are several modern orchards on the Plateau that prove its adaptability to this use, but of course there is so far much more orchard land in the country than is needed yet.

"At present because of the extensive outside range the section is attractive to live stock farmers. Even when the section is developed some of the rough and steep land will need to be in grass to carry the stock through the summer that will be needed to eat the rough feeds made on the place and to manufacture the necessary by-product, stable manure.

"This is not written to boost land values on the Plateau, they are generally about high enough for the land in its undeveloped condition, but to strengthen the faith of those who are already on the Plateau and call attention of others to a section that has been neglected and misunderstood. The section ought to be developed, the land is soon going to be needed and, in fact, is now.

"The barrier of a wilderness between East and Middle Tennessee should be converted into a prosperous farming section. This can be done if those who farm the land, whether they be natives or newcomers, will inform themselves of the fundamental principles of farming, study the section so that these principles can be applied most intelligently and then stick to it. There will be hardships in the way. Stumps will have to be burned around for some years because it costs too much to pull them out and get rid of them at first; it costs a good deal to cut the trees off and burn them; community machines, such as a thrasher, have not been introduced yet, so that each farmer will have to be more independent of his neighbors than is desirable.

"The possibilities are there if the farmer will use brains, brawn and some capital in bringing them out."

A Clever Burro.

A friend tells us the following about Rowdy, a burro he bought as a foal in Colorado and brought home to Massachusetts for his children: "Rowdy is now an aged pensioner, but he has been as clever a little pet and servant as one could wish. His friendship for the family cow has been one of the distinguishing features of his career. They used to stand side by side in the stable, and in the pasture would actually play tag. The cow began years ago with her rough tongue to lick Rowdy's face. When he attempted to reciprocate the courtesy, his smooth tongue made no impression. This then is what we have seen him do a hundred times: He would find a small stick, take it in his teeth and scratch the cow all about the eyes, and ears and horns." Can an one call this instinct? Was such an idea tucked away in Rowdy's brain when he was born, a part of his inheritance from generations of ancestral burros? That would seem out of the question. We are inclined to think that Rowdy thought out the stick idea for himself.—Our Dumb Animals.

Babies' Cries Set to Music.

The crying of babies is not regarded as musical, but nevertheless it is. Rev. Noel Bonava Hunt, a senior curate of St. Matthew's church, Willesden, England, has set infants' cries to music. He was particularly impressed with the beauty and musical quality of the walls and cries of the infants at the baptismal services held at St. Matthew's. He tried to persuade the church musicians to catch the sounds and set them to music, but they refused. At length Rev. Mr. Hunt himself recorded the sounds in the form of a chant set to the words of the One Hundred and Thirty-seventh psalm: "By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered thee, O Zion." "The composition is original," Rev. Mr. Hunt says, "and it is a little grotesque, but it is musical. It represents the meaning of the words to which it is set."

Arthur Burnett went to Chattanooga on business last week.

Mrs. Elizabeth Potter, of Genesis, is the guest of her son, S. W. Potter, and family.

If you want pencils, fountain pens, pen points, ink wells, library paste, or paper fasteners come to the Chronicle office for them.

Rev. N. S. Jackson left Friday to fill his regular appointment at Livingston. He serves the Baptist church there every second and fourth Sunday and Crossville the first and third Sundays. He returned home Monday.

Miss Grace Sims and Miss Fannie Saylor, of Sparta, who have been visiting their cousins, the Misses Borden, returned home Friday.

There will be a meeting of the Farmers Union at Lantana, Thursday, August 23. President J. H. Koffman and G. R. Kite will be present and address the people. Dinner will be served on the ground and a general good time will be had.

Plenty of Time Books at the Chronicle office: two weeks' size and monthly, only 10c. Stenographers' note books also.

Show at the Mecca tomorrow night and Saturday night this week and every week until further notice. Watch the bulletin board for dates, names of plays and other details that are necessary on short notice.

Master Robert Schlicher has grown four pounds of potatoes in one hill, which he exhibited at this office. They were excellent spuds. How much, if any, can you beat that? Senator E. G. Tollett called us last week by phone and said he was suffering from a severe injury to his foot and on making inquiry as to the cause of the injury he informed us that he had dropped one of his home-grown potatoes on it. While he did not state the size of the potato it must have been a whopper to hurt one of his feet.

How about your renewals for the magazines you "just can't do without"? Surely the Modern Priscilla is one of them. The need for economy—intelligent, effective economy—means the need for a Modern Priscilla subscription in every home. New subscription five months for 45c. Mary L. Bishop.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Horn was made nappy Sunday afternoon by the arrival of a bright baby boy. Mother and child doing well.

Last week Mr. and Mrs. M. W. West received a postal card stating that Taylor Wickersham died at Corpus Christi, Texas, August 7, as the result of an operation. Mr. Wickersham had been married a few years and had one child. He will be well remembered by many in this county.

At the Chronicle office you can get pen tablets, examination tablets, fountain pen ink in five and ten cent bottles, pocket note books, stenographer's note books, Crane's fine stationery in two-quire boxes and other stationery such as you do not find elsewhere in this county.

Miss Cora Cartright returned to her home at College Station, Bledsoe county, yesterday to enter school. Miss Cartright has been central operator here for some months. J. D. Cartright took her home and brought his mother back with him to pass some time here on a visit. The place vacated by Miss Cartright is being filled by Miss Claudia Hyder.

Chas. Julian took his Sunday school class, the young peoples' class of the Methodist church, on a picnic to Greens Ford after Sunday school Sunday and a delightful time was had by all.

Master Elmore Keyes returned from Nashville Saturday afternoon to be with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Elmore, for a number of weeks.

Rev. W. A. Martin of Jellico, father of Rev. W. C. Martin, will preach at the M. E. church next Sunday morning and evening. Every cordially invited to attend these services.

DEATH OF CHEVALIER BAYARD

Gallant French Knight Met End Heroically While Leading Fight Against Traitor's Army.

It was on April 30, 1524, that the Chevalier Bayard was killed in battle. His end was characteristic. Engaged in a campaign in northern Italy, where the imperial army under the traitor, De Bourbon, was pressing hard upon the retreating French troops, Bayard was asked to take the command and save the army. "It is too late," he said, "but my soul is God's and my life is my country's." Then putting himself at the head of a body of men at arms, he held the enemy at bay until struck down by a ball. He was thrown from his horse, but refused to retire, saying that he had never shown his back to the enemy.

He was placed against a tree, facing the advancing host. In the want of a cross he kissed his sword, and because of the absence of a priest he confessed to his *maitre d'hotel*. When De Bourbon came up and expressed regret at seeing him in such condition, he said: "Weep for yourself, sir. For me, I have nothing to complain of; I die in the course of my duty to my country. You triumph in betraying yours; but your successes are horrible and the end will be sad." Having uttered these words the gallant knight died and was buried by his enemy on the field with military honors.

For drilling wells see or write J. H. Graham, Pomona, Tenn. 6-6-11.

Mrs. J. S. Garrison, who has been quite sick, is improved.

The Art Circle will meet this week with Mrs. W. F. Bandy.

Miss Pearl Hyder, who was home for a few days last week, returned to her work in a hospital in Nashville Wednesday.

Miss Ruth Baker and Mrs. Minnie Lowrey and son, of Sparta, are the guests of Mrs. Bertha Bandy.

Mrs. Lou Patton returned last week to her work at St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville after passing a few weeks here with friends.

If your watch or piece of jewelry needs repairing bring it to the Chronicle office and we will send it away and have it set right. You can pay for it when returned.

Mrs. Kenneth Miles and little son Bruce, of Chattanooga, are visiting her school mate and friend, Mrs. Fred Bradshaw, who is spending the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Dreutzer.

I have about 150 to 200 pounds of crimson clover seed in the bur that I will sell for 12 1-2 cents a pound. E. G. Hamby, Erasmus.

Miss Hallie Dunbar spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. H. J. Dunbar, at Ozone, where she is teaching school this year.

B. L. Wheeler is painting the roof of the bank.

It is rumored that there are ninety cases of typhoid in Rockwood. It may be an exaggeration as to the number but there seems little doubt of the dreaded disease being much in evidence in the little city at the foot of the mountain.

The Boy Scouts are camping on Byrds Creek near the Bazzel Hedgecote old place this week. They went there yesterday and expect to return tomorrow. Rev. R. E. Newton is with the boys as scout master.

The highway work is largely completed from Main Street for nearly a mile south of town. A splendid piece of work is being done by widening the street, considerable grading and a general line of substantial work in the way of culverts and ditching. The grader will soon be put on for the crowning and finishing touches.

Prof. H. H. Vincent and daughter, Miss Amy, have taken rooms at the home of U. S. Rose.

Mrs. Susie W. Dunbar is having her home much improved by a fresh coat of paint.

Among those who received places as officers after the training at Fort Oglethorpe, that are known to our people here were: J. T. Dannel, Rockwood; Bethel Brown, son of Judge S.

C. Brown, Athens, received a commission as First Lieutenant of Infantry; David S. Lansden, son of Judge D. L. Lansden of the State Supreme Court, is Second Lieutenant of Artillery; Martin J. Burelbach, Chattanooga, gets commission as Captain of Infantry; also J. Otto Kittel, of Chattanooga, who was formerly manager of the Herbert Domain property before it was sold to the state, received a commission.

Mrs. Cora B. Keyes is expected home this week to visit home folks, the Bishops, for a few days.

Capt. and Mrs. M. J. Burelbach, of Chattanooga, are expected the last of the week for a short visit with the homefolks, the Dunbars.

The exercises planned in honor of the soldier boys for Saturday were carried out successfully. General J. R. Mitchell delivered an extended address, after Senator E. G. Tollett had opened the meeting. Songs and drills were given, talks by several citizens and then Judge C. E. Snodgrass, in his usual cheerful and impressive style gave a brief address and presented each of the boys with a testament with his name inscribed in it. E. L. Lemert, who has two sons in Company D, and who served in the civil war, talked a few minutes to the boys in closing on "How to be a Good Soldier," and his words were received with interest by the whole company. The occasion was one of much interest and pleasure to all who were able to attend.

Quitman, the little nine-year-old son of Hardin Smith, fell from a tree Monday and cut his head seriously and fractured the skull badly in the back of the head on the right side. Drs. Reed and Lewis were called and dressed the wound. The boy is resting well considering the seriousness of the injury. If the boy is so far recovered from the shock as to render an operation safe, it will likely be performed today or soon.

Miss Sarah Owens is the guest of Miss Nell Snodgrass, enroute from Winnipeg, Wis., to her home in Columbia, S. C.

Attorney J. T. Wheeler and family came over from Jamestown Sunday and are passing a few days here with relatives and friends.

Miss Edith Hughes, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Scheerer the past week, returned to her home in Chattanooga yesterday, accompanied by Miss Lucile Scheerer, who will visit her for some days.

Good show at the Mecca theatre Thursday and Saturday nights. Come out and enjoy an hour of pleasant and instructive recreation.

Misses Bessie Potter and Eula Bishop were guests at the F. H. Washburn home, Pomona, Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Ruth DeRossett and Lelah Burnett went to Graysville last week to visit relatives and friends.